

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1 A method for specifying and automating file handling in a portable image capture device, wherein the device includes at least one stored file and is capable of communicating with a computer over a network, comprising:

- (a) downloading an action list from the computer to the device, wherein the action list includes a mapping of one or more user input events on the device to one or more file handling actions; and
- (b) when an input event on the device is detected that matches one of the events in the downloaded action list, performing the corresponding file handling action on the file within the device.

2 The method of claim 1 further including the step of: downloading an executable file associated with the file handling action to be performed and executing the executable file in the device in order to perform the action.

3 The method of claim 2 wherein step (c) further includes the step of: downloading the executable file corresponding to the file handling action when the action is to be performed.

4 The method of claim 2 further including the step of: downloading all the executable files associated with the actions in the action list at the time the action list is downloaded.

5 The method of claim 1 wherein the file comprises a digital image captured by the device.

6 The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: prior to downloading the action list, allowing a user to configure the action list on the computer by mapping the one or more user input events on the device to one or more file handling actions.

7 The method of claim 6 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: using the computer to access a server via a web browser and allowing the user to configure the action list on the server.

8 The method of claim 6 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: in response to the user logging into the server, retrieving the user's account information, including the device type and an operating environment of the device.

9 The method of claim 8 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: displaying to the user a list of supported user interface input events specific to the user's type of device, and allowing the user to select a desired set of input events.

10 The method of claim 9 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: displaying a set of available actions that can be performed when each selected event occurs, and allowing the user to map one or more actions to each event.

11 The method of claim 10 wherein the set of available actions may include any combination of e-mailing the file as an attachment, posting the file to a photo sharing service, posting the file to a specified web site, resizing if the file is an image, and saving the file to a folder.

12 The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: storing the mappings as a downloadable action list.

13 The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the step of: requesting the action list from the computer by the device.

14 The method of claim 13 wherein step (b) further includes the step of: transmitting identity information from the device to the server.

15 The method of claim 14 wherein step (b) further includes the step of: using the identity information by the server to retrieve the action list configured by the

user and downloading the action list to the device.

16 The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) further includes the step of: downloading an executable file that is compatible with the device's operating environment.

17 The method of claim 16 wherein the server uses the identity information to find the action executable file appropriate for the type of device and associates a name of the executable file with the corresponding action in the action list and includes any other parameters necessary to perform the action.

18 The method of claim 16 wherein the device sends operating environment information to the server in the request in order for the server to find the action executable file appropriate for the device's operating environment.

19 The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of: detecting the input events on the device and comparing the detected input events to the events listed in the downloaded action list, and if a match occurs, the device attempts to perform the corresponding action or actions in the list by retrieving the executable file necessary to execute that action.

20 The method of claim 19 wherein step (c) further includes the step of: determining if the executable file is present in device memory, and if so, retrieving and executing the executable file, thereby performing the action.

21 The method of claim 20 wherein step (c) further includes the step of: if the executable is not present in the memory, then the device requests the executable file from the computer and executes the executable file once received.

22 A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for specifying and automating file handling in a portable image capture device, wherein the device includes at least one stored file and is capable of communicating with a computer over a network, the instructions for:

- (a) downloading the action list from the computer to the device, wherein the action list includes a mapping of one or more user input events on the device to one or more file handling actions; and
- (b) when an input event on the device is detected that matches one of the events in the downloaded action list, performing the corresponding file handling action on the file within the device.

23 The computer-readable medium of claim 22 further including the instruction of: downloading an executable file associated with the file handling action to be performed and executing the executable file in the device in order to perform the action.

24 The computer-readable medium of claim 23 wherein step (c) further includes the step of: downloading the executable file corresponding to the file handling action when the action is to be performed.

25 The computer-readable medium of claim 23 further including the instruction of: downloading all the executable files associated with the actions in the action list at the time the action list is downloaded.

26 The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the file comprises a digital image captured by the device.

27 The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: prior to downloading the action list, allowing a user to configure the action list on the computer by mapping the one or more user input events on the device to one or more file handling actions.

28 The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: using the computer to access a server via a web browser and allowing the user to configure the action list on the server.

29 The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: in response to the user logging into the server, retrieving the user's account information, including the device type and an operating environment of the device.

30 The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: displaying to the user a list of supported user interface input events specific to the user's type of device, and allowing the user to select a desired set of input events.

31 The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: displaying a set of available actions that can be performed when each selected event occurs, and allowing the user to map one or more actions to each event.

32 The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the set of available actions may include any combination of e-mailing the file as an attachment, posting the file to a photo sharing service, posting the file to a specified web site, resizing if the file is an image, and saving the file to a folder.

33 The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: storing the mappings as a downloadable action list.

34 The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of: requesting the action list from the computer by the device.

35 The computer-readable medium of claim 34 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of: transmitting identity information from the device to the

server.

36 The computer-readable medium of claim 35 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of: using the identity information by the server to retrieve the action list configured by the user and downloading the action list to the device.

37 The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of: downloading an executable file that is compatible with the device's operating environment.

38 The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the server uses the identity information to find the action executable file appropriate for the type of device and associates a name of the executable file with the corresponding action in the action list and includes any other parameters necessary to perform the action.

39 The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the device sends operating environment information to the server in the request in order for the server to find the action executable file appropriate for the device's operating environment.

40 The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein instruction (c) further includes the instruction of: detecting the input events on the device and comparing the detected input events to the events listed in the downloaded action list, and if a match occurs, the device attempts to perform the corresponding action or actions in the list by retrieving the executable file necessary to execute that action.

41 The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein instruction (c) further includes the instruction of: determining if the executable file is present in device memory, and if so, retrieving and executing the executable file, thereby performing the action.

42 The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein instruction (c) further includes the instruction of: if the executable is not present in the memory, then the device requests the executable file from the computer and executes the executable file once received.